

MINDEN • HALIBURTON • BANCROFT

The Imes MINDEN ONTARIO

www.mindentimes.ca

\$1.50 (incl. GST)

Wednesday, January 12, 2022



BOSHKUNG SOCIAL

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Publications mail agreement # 40063862







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Ice racers ready to slide into new season

by STEPHEN PETRICK *Special to the Times*

The coolest type of car racing is (pandemic pending) set to return to Minden this winter.

Ice racing was originally scheduled to resume at the Minden fairgrounds on the weekend of Jan. 15-16. Ontario's recent return to a modified Step 2 of its re-opening plan, announced on Jan. 4 to limit the spread of the Omicron variant, has put some uncertainty on whether a return on that particular date is

Members of the racing community are preparing to start the season, said Minden Kin Club President Andy Rickard. A Minden Hills council meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 13, is expected to provide some clarity on whether that season can start on time, or will be delayed.

Whenever racing goes ahead, it will mark the return of a tradition that dates back to the late 1970s. It was then that the Kin Club built a local track, knowing that it would lure ice racing enthusiasts from across the province.

see ORGANIZERS page 2



Open for (takeout) business

Provincial government restrictions were announced and came into effect last week that close indoor dining at restaurants and bars in an effort to slow the spread of the Omicron variant, but takeout and delivery is still available. Nourished, owned by Matthew Thompson and Alexis Macnab, is one of several local eateries offering food to go during this time. For a listing of local restaurants offering takeout or curbside services, see Page 9. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

Huskies find the positives with three week postponement

by ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Times

The Haliburton County Huskies, along with the rest of the OJHL (Ontario Junior Hockey League), have enacted a three week pause to the season. The announcement comes fresh off of Ontario Premier Doug Ford announcing that the province would be moving to a modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen plan.

The plan temporarily closes indoor dining and gyms, but also forced many other minor sports leagues to enact a three week pause on their seasons as well.

As outlined in the government's release, only professional and "elite amateur" sports are allowed to operate with no fan attendance. The NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs took on the Edmonton Oilers last Wednesday in front of an eerily empty Scotiabank Arena, meanwhile the Ontario Hockey League is the only minor hockey league allowed to operate in Ontario under the government's criteria.

Both the OJHL, the league that the Huskies

see ATHLETES page 2



MINDEN SUBARU



13061 Hwy 35 Minden, ON 705-286-6126

Organizers hope ice racing will be given a green light

from page 1

Previously, ice racing was mostly done on frozen lakes, which was not exactly safe.

Now ice racing has become an almost annual (and weather dependent) tradition in Minden. The only other ice racing track in Ontario is in Thunder Bay, meaning the Minden Fairgrounds track is the only track in southern Ontario for racing enthusiasts.

Ice racing events were cancelled last year, as Ontario's battle with the pandemic worsened. This year, the Canadian Automobile Sport Club, which runs ice racing programs with the Kin Club, is hoping to stage seven weekends of ice racing. Two-day events are scheduled for each week up to Feb. 26 - 27.

"We're extremely excited; it's very important for us as a club and as a community," said Rickard, in an interview that took place before the Step 2 announcement. "The economic impact of ice racing is huge."

He said each ice racing day usually draws about 70 racers, from several different areas of the province. Those racers and their families then stay in local hotels and eat at local restaurants.

Rickard said organizers feel they can pull the events off, even amid some COVID-related restrictions, because ice racing events don't draw a lot of spectators; it's usually mostly participants and family members at the events. Registration will be online and even officials are spaced out along the track, so the events can run without breaking any social distancing rules.

While everyday citizens may associate ice with dangerous driving conditions, Rickard explained that ice racing is actually consid-



A car hits a snow bank as it makes its way around a loop during a previous ice racing event at the Minden Fairgrounds. /FILE photo

ered one of the safest versions of auto racing. That's because the ice often doesn't allow drivers to accelerate to a level where they're at risk of a serious crash. Ice racing tracks are also mandated to have snow banks on their borders, which offer more flexible padding than an average wall.

The sport is also loved by racing enthusiasts because it's an ultimate test of driving talent.

"In many forms of racing, the ones with the most money can go the fastest," said Rickard.

But that's not so in ice racing. Adding horsepower to a vehicle won't help. It's more important for drivers to know how their tires will handle the turns.

"It's all about how much you can get away with," Rickard added. "It's very much about driver skill."

The sport is also less expensive than other types of racing. Most vehicles used in racing are stock vehicles that have been modified for competition, not unlike how old clunkers are stripped down and prepared for summer

demolition derbies. There are classes of races for those using rubber snow tires and those using studded snow tires.

The fairgrounds track is challenging; it has a long straightaway, but the route after the turn isn't parallel; it requires drivers to veer left and then right before the opposite bend. At the start of the day, the course is about as slippery as a hockey rink, but as the track gets used, the ice wears down and may provide a little more traction.

"The crashes aren't spectacular in any way. It's supposed to be non-contact; racing, bumping and rubbing is not a strategy," said Rickard

The sport has been around for so long, locally, that now there are families with multiple generations competing. In some cases, they can share the same car for separate races. There are also now programs to help people learn about ice driving, before competing in an actual race, Rickard said.

"It's something that anyone can do. You don't have to be an experienced race car driver by any means."

And while there's some modest prize money available for race winners, Rickard said that, literally, no one is making a profit on ice racing. "The champion will still be financially behind at the end of the year," he said.

Most people do it for the thrill of competition and for the love of the sport.

"There are [people] that take it to an extreme level of competitiveness and there are [people] that come out and just try to have fun with it."

For more information on ice racing, including the registration and schedule details, visit www.casc.on.ca.

Athletes continue training sessions for return to ice

from page 1

are a part of, and the Ontario University Athletic (OUA) and Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) teams across the province were notably excluded from the list of elite amateur leagues.

Before the most recent game played by the Huskies, a 2-1 loss to the Toronto Jr. Canadiens, the team was running a six game winning streak and was scheduled to take on the Mississauga Chargers on Jan. 7. However, that game and the rest of the January schedule was postponed due to these new guidelines with the league announcing that they, alongside the OUA and OCAA, will be lobbying to get their leagues classified as "elite."

"The OJHL is committed to completing a full OJHL regular season and playoff schedule for the 2021-2022 season and we have put together various operational scenarios to allow us to do so," Marty Savoy, Commissioner of the OJHL said. "Although the provincial government has not yet declared Junior A hockey within Ontario as Elite level of sport, the OJHL is lobbying our various governing bodies in an effort to have this level of the sport included within this classification."

For the Huskies players, with the exception of a few who decided to temporarily play in other leagues, most of them will be staying with their billet families in Minden and Haliburton County. This was primarily done to decrease travel and keep the players safe during the surging number COVID cases throughout the province.

A large portion of the member teams in OJHL elect to have their players live at home, as most of the players live close to the



Haliburton County Huskies forward Lucas Stevenson prepares to hit Toronto Jr Canadiens forward Tyler Fukakusa along the boards during one of the last Ontario Junior Hockey League games before the season was suspended for three weeks because of the province's pandemic-related decision. /ALEX GALLACHER Special to the *Times*

GTA in some capacity. The Huskies are one of the few teams to have most of their players billet, and it has turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the Huskies. Not only has it helped increase team morale and bring the players closer together, but it's been a key factor in keeping everyone safe while they wait for this storm to blow over.

"Most of the guys decided to stay in the area," Huskies forward Nick Athanasaskos said. "I think for the team as a whole decided

that it would be safer up here in the county from COVID."

Due to the lower population of Haliburton County compared to some other markets in the GTA, it gives the team some flexibility and allows the billeted players to keep themselves safe in the county. Since only small indoor and outdoor groups are allowed, the team plans on holding some COVID safe training sessions to keep the squad ready for the swiftly approaching restart.

"The guys are bummed for sure," Huskies defenceman and Haliburton-raised Ryan Hall said. "Everyone is trying to keep positive and keep their heads held high for when the season does resume."

In only their first season being located in Minden Hills, the Huskies have enjoyed immense fan support very quickly. Sitting fourth in league attendance with an average of 301 fans per game, the Huskies' success came from the community embracing and rallying around the team. For majority owner and Haliburton Huskies alumnus Paul Wilson, the team remains committed to finding a solution to ensure the Huskies can finish the season.

"Most of the team will be staying in the area, so we are organizing workouts in small groups to keep the guys fit," Wilson said. "We are anticipating that the players will be back on the ice after this shutdown, but the government is hopefully soon going to come up with some changes to allow us to play again. Even if we have to play with no fans, it's important to all of us that we get the season in"

As the world works to combat the highly contagious Omicron variant, these young players in the junior leagues across the country have already sacrificed almost a season and a half to the pandemic. While safety still remains the number one factor, most of the players are ever so eager to be back on the ice.

With the Step Two measures set to expire on Jan. 26, pending any new changes in public health measures the team could possibly be back on home ice as early as Jan. 28 against the North York Rangers at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

Kanwal Sethi receives Canada's highest volunteer honour

From his early years in rural Kenya in the 1940s and '50s, living in villages without plumbing or electricity, Kanwal Sethi came to know the value of volunteering.

"When you grow up recognizing that you're lucky to have what you have," he says, "it's part of the culture that you share with your neighbours, family, and those around you, at work and where you live. That characteristic got embedded in me—never to look at something as if it's mine alone.'

On Jan. 1, Sethi, who now lives in Richmond Hill, received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers for his efforts in Canada, including with the Royal Canadian Legion in Minden and Canadian Forces College (CFC) in Toronto.

Before he came to Canada in 1980 and started a marketing business, Sethi was a military officer in newly independent Kenya. He trained in England at Sandhurst and Camberley, where, he recalls, he met "people of different backgrounds, cultures, outlooks, persuasions, goals, and ambitions," in environments that encouraged his view that, as he puts it, "sharing must rank as part of leadership.'

It was a philosophy Sethi further developed in Kenya, as the child of Indian immigrants working among people of many different ethnic groups. In his colourful memoir, Shaping Destiny, he recalls a frightening nighttime drive on a narrow road, where he and his men encountered a pride of lions. He delegated command to a sergeant with experience of dealing with the animals, and the soldiers were able to manoeuvre their way out carefully and safely. His time in the army was also typified by bravery and resourcefulness - for instance, in rallying his troops after being shot in the thigh during combat, for which he was awarded Kenya's Distinguished Service Medal. In the face of devastating floods, he helped evacuate villagers and restore infrastructure and sanitation.

Sethi draws connections between this work and the efforts of the Canadian Armed Forces, who, here at home, have provided much-needed assistance during floods, and who have joined the fight against COVID-19 by delivering vaccines to remote communities and providing support in long-term care homes. Sethi knows from experience the importance of strengthening ties between the military and the communities it serves. As a volunteer, he organizes events at the CFC that bring officers, local businesses, and community members

Sethi and his wife, Aruna, have also acted as sponsors for international officers at the college, which he sees as "paying back": "I was at the receiving end of humongous hospitality overseas when I was growing up, and I owe my success to strangers coming along the way and opening the door."

In 2015, he and his family created the Sethi Inukshuk Award at the CFC; it is given annually to a graduate who, he says, "surpasses expectations for leadership" and displays a spirit of "co-operation and unselfishness."

Often, on Remembrance Day, Sethi is invited to speak about his experiences. At schools for adults who are new arrivals to Canada, he likes to encourage the students to "reach for the sky," and also to volunteer: "There are umpteen ways



Kanwal Sethi, a member of the Minden legion, was a recipient of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers presented to him by Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Elizabeth Dowdeswell on Jan. 1 this year.

you can help. The important thing is, it should come from your heart. It's good to receive, but it is better to give, and to see a smile on somebody's face because you supported them.'

One of a Lieutenant Governor's great privileges is to celebrate Ontarians from all backgrounds and corners of the province. On Jan. 1, I [Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell] made a special presentation of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers to Major (Retired) Kanwal Sethi, Maduba Ahmad, and Olga Lambert. Begun as the Caring Canadian Award, the medal recognizes exceptional volunteer achievements, and I could think of no better way to start the New Year than to celebrate Kanwal, Maduba, and Olga's passions and remarkable commitment to serving others. Learn more about the medal here: https://www.gg.ca/en/honours/canadian-honours/ sovereigns-medal-volunteers.

> Submitted by The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario



The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers indicates the ideas of caring and generosity, represented by two interlaced hearts. The sunburst pattern of the rim symbolizes the time that volunteers are giving and their actions. The ribbon uses the viceregal colours of blue and gold. The five gold stripes evoke the fingers of a hand, present in the Caring Canadian Award emblem, while the deep red colour is associated with royalty. /Photo and cutline from gg.ca, MCpl Vincent Carbonneau

IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

> January 13 - Regular Council Meeting January 27 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting, please download by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions within the Township. Many opportunities include benefits such as enrollment in a comprehensive benefit package, Employee Assistance Plan, life insurance, personal health coverage, OMERS pension plan, vacation, float and sick time entitlements as well as opportunities for training and development

Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca for a list of available jobs and how to apply

SNOW REMOVAL

Pushing snow across roads and streets is not only a safety hazard; it is also against the law. The Ontario Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181.

RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK

Drink pouches, chip bags, straws and disposable cutlery are not recyclable. Please place these items in your garbage. For more info on recycling in Minden Hills, download the Haliburton County Waste Wizard mobile app on your Apple or Android device

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fires can start accidentally in your chimney. Soot and fuel residues slowly build up in chimneys over time and can catch fire. If this happens, the chimney could send burning soot into your home or start fires within the roof space or on other floors of the house. Even if it doesn't burn the house down, a chimney fire can cause a huge mess. You can help prevent this by having your chimney swept regularly.

Short-term measures help relieve strain on system: health unit

by SUE TIFFIN

Editor

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) district health unit press conference with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking, held virtually on Jan. 5.

Dr. Natalie Bocking spoke to the frustration that she knows people are feeling due to being in the third year of the pandemic, facing further public health measures and restrictions as a result of the spread of the Omicron variant and the fifth wave.

"At this point in time we are not looking to stop COVID-19 transmission," Bocking said. "At this point in time we are looking to mitigate or decrease the impact on our acute care system. Our hospitals have already had to move to looking at cancelling non-elective procedures. What's different about this wave of the pandemic compared to previous, is the number of absences of health care workers at our hospitals that is happening at the same time as a higher number of admissions which creates even further strain on the system so I think certainly in terms of short-term measures that we can do to try and keep our healthcare system safe and able to respond, those are measures that we need to take and [are] time-limited to get us through. As an individual or community member the most important thing you can be doing right now is following those basic public health measures."

She acknowledged that it might feel like deja vu, referencing the movie *Groundhog Day*.

"There are certainly technical lessons learned about how we manage COVID-19, some of that changes based on the variant. But I do think a lot of it, our biggest lessons learned, are more kind of social, in that the best way we get through these waves is through kindness and compassion and empathy and that when we have done that the waves pass faster and we come out healthier on the other side."

Changes to testing, outbreak reporting

As of the Jan. 5 media briefing, 4,288 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the region since the beginning of the pandemic, and 1,013 cases were currently being recorded as active: 74 in Haliburton County, 381 in City of Kawartha Lakes and 550 in Northumberland County.

These numbers reflect infections in individuals that have been reported to public health through lab-positive confirmed results.

Bocking said that given changes in provincial criteria to access PCR testing – which has been reduced to those who work or live in high-risk settings or have high-risk medical conditions due to capacity in both local assessment centres throughout the province as well as at regional and central laboratories - the numbers being reported of confirmed cases are an underestimate of the actual cases in the community.

"We know that there are many individuals right now that might have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or that may have tested positive with a rapid antigen test and are presumed to have COVID-19 infection and these individuals are not reflected in the numbers that are on our dashboard," she said. "That being said, I think the dashboard which includes the numbers of confirmed PCR tests still is helpful to really indicate the general burden. Knowing that it's an underestimate, these are still really large numbers that we're seeing."

Bocking said the health unit's seven-day rolling incidence rate at that point was the highest it has ever been throughout the pandemic, at 509 cases per 100,000 population over the last week. Sixteen outbreaks had been reported throughout the region: eight of those outbreaks in long-term care homes or retirement homes, two of those outbreaks in correctional institutions and four in other group home settings or congregate care settings.

"We are not declaring general community outbreaks or other community location outbreaks but will continue to declare outbreaks in higher risk settings which includes different congregate care settings such as retirement homes or group homes," Bocking said.

The region's test positivity was also the highest it's been in the pandemic, though still just below or around the provincial average.

"So calculated today but reflective of about a week ago, our test positivity is at 18 per cent," Bocking said. "There are some health unit jurisdictions seeing test positivity of 30 per cent or higher so I think the numbers we're seeing across all of these indicators are consistent with what's being seen across the province."



Dr. Natalie Bocking, medical officer of health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit, speaks in an online meeting with reporters at the Jan. 5 media information session. /Screenshot from HKPRDHU YouTube channel

Omicron spread indicated in past 14 days

Bocking said reports over the past two weeks reflected a period of time with a significant change in epidemiology as Omicron provincially became the dominant variant. In the past 14 days, she said nine people had been admitted to hospital, a significant increase over the past while in which few hospitalizations had been reported. At the time of the briefing, four people were currently admitted to intensive care units.

"Among those people that have had severe enough COVID-19 illness and admitted to hospital as a result of that - just to give you a sense because it's often a hot topic and people ask - of those nine, one of those individuals was not vaccinated at all and the remaining eight had received two doses of vaccine," Bocking said. "We know that two doses of COVID-19 vaccine is, while still providing some protection against severe illness, does not provide the same level of protection as it did for the Delta variant hence ... the push and the emphasis on booster doses."

Four of those requiring hospital admission are between the ages of 70 and 89, said Bocking, noting almost half of the hospital admissions are among the older age population. Two were among 50- to 69-year-olds and two were among 30-to-49-year-olds.

In the past 14 days, still the predominant age groups have been younger adults, 20 to 29 and 30 to 39. "Although we certainly are seeing more among older age cohorts as well," Bocking said.

Those testing positive asked to tell close contacts

For the average community case, Bocking said the health unit is now not doing case management and contact tracing. The health unit's focus is on high-risk settings and outbreaks.

"I think across the province there's no health unit that has the capacity to do the case management and contact tracing – for us, we're receiving more than 100 new cases per day," she said.

Bocking said that for individuals that don't have access to PCR testing, but who might test positive through a rapid antigen test, there is no requirement to report that to public health and there's no mechanism to do that.

"So if you're an average community person, you don't work at a hospital or a long-term care home and you are fully vaccinated and do not have another medical condition that is interfering with your immune response and you have symptoms consistent with COVID, or you test positive on a rapid antigen test, the direction is to isolate at home for five days. And not just you isolating at home, but everyone in your household is also required to isolate at home with you regardless of their vaccination status. That's different than what it was about a month ago. If that person is not vaccinated or they have another medical problem ... then the requirement is to isolate for a full 10 days."

For those who test positive or suspect they have COVID-19, Bocking said it's the "collective community ask, since public health units are no longer doing this, for them to reach out to anyone that they have been in close contact with in the 48-hours prior to when their symptoms started, and let them know, 'now I'm sick and you should be watching for symptoms as well.'"

High-risk contacts that don't live with the individual don't need to isolate at home but are asked to self-monitor and really look for signs or symptoms. Bocking said, "the guidance around this is continuing to evolve," and resources on the HKPRD health unit website are up to date.

Getting a boost

The health unit is looking to add information about booster shot statistics to its dashboard information online.

At the time of the media briefing, Bocking said throughout the HKPRD region, 66 per cent of those 70 or older had received their booster shot, while just about 50 per cent of those aged 50 and older had received their booster shot, and 37.5 per cent of those 18 and older had received their booster dose.

Vaccination in 5- to 11-year-olds

Within the HKPRD region, 39 per cent of kids aged five to 11 had received one dose of their vaccine.

"It's about average for health units across the province," said Bocking. "I think that number is certainly much lower than where we would like it to be. We know that vaccination among this age group will significantly help to reduce broader community transmission and help overall to both, prevent illness among that age group and to help bring the broader transmission of COVID-19 in the community under control."

Between now and Feb. 4, Bocking said there were 8,900 appointments open for the 5 to 11 age group.

COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County County Current Current Confirmed Confirmed Hospitalization Confirmed Probable Deaths (Total Cases Not Probable Cases (Total Cases s (Total to date) Deaths (Total Resolved Resolved to date) to date) to date) (Total to date) Haliburtor 289 206 Kawartha Lakes 462 2,188 1,680 65 46 13 Northumberland 579 2,214 1,615 51 19 0 Pending Information 22 0 23 0 0 0 1 4,714 3,502 120 66 13

HKPRDHU's COVID-19 dashboard update

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit reported 10 new cases in Haliburton County on Jan. 10, reflecting cases confirmed between Jan. 7 and Jan. 10. The health unit notes that as of Dec. 31, 2021, only individuals in high-risk settings will be tested, and as a result the number of reported cases of COVID-19 is an underestimate of the community spread. /Screenshot from HKPRDHU website

AH invites public to participate

The township of Algonquin Highlands is providing an opportunity for the public to have its say with its launch of Let's Connect Algonquin Highlands - its new public engagement platform.

Let's Connect Algonquin Highlands is a multi-faceted portal the township will use to consult and communicate with residents and community members on a variety of issues on an ongoing basis. It offers an opportunity for members of the public to share their ideas, concerns and opinions directly with the township through tools like polls and surveys, with that feedback helping to inform decision-making and policy, and to shape the future of the community.

'We're excited to launch this more robust way of engaging with the community," Mayor Carol Moffatt said. "We've had a lot of success with social media over the years

but this is very different and will allow a more focused and issue-specific way for the public to participate in local government. Council already has a myriad of ideas for this portal and we're just getting started. I'd encourage folks to sign up and stay tuned as this exciting new platform evolves."

Currently active on the site are the township's zoning by-law update - with discussions around cannabis cultivation, backyard hens, backyard beekeeping, septic system setbacks and much more – and a public survey seeking input that will be used in the creation of a new municipal communications plan for the township. You can explore the site and join the conversation at letsconnectalgonquinhighlands.ca.

Staff



Meet Ivv

lvy, a new electric vehicle charging station in the township of Algonquin Highlands was introduced on the township's social media pages this week. Ivy is located outside the AH administrative office on North Shore Road, and is available for the public to use. A rate of \$2.50 per hour applies. For more information visit https:// ivycharge.com/ivy-for-drivers/level-2-ivy-park-charge. /Submitted photo by Algonquin Highlands township











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Being a friend

ENERALLY THIS space is dedicated to thoughts on more local topics and so it might be odd for you to find yourself, now, reading about American actress and comedian Betty White, but bear with me here.

Surely there are many fans of Betty in the area – she was a cultural icon with an 80-year acting career, recognized with numerous distinctions.

Both on-screen and off, she broke down the stereotypes of aging; championed rights for women; was a strong ally for the LGBTQ+ community, and was beloved by multiple generations.

White was also celebrated as a passionate and dedicated, tireless animal advocate

She hosted a TV show that focused on pets and their celebrities and ecology and wildlife preservation, served on the board of trustees at the non-profit Greater Los

Angeles Zoo Association and volunteered at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Through the Morris Animal Foundation, she personally sponsored more than 30 health studies that improved health for dogs, cats, horses and wildlife and established the Betty White Wildlife Fund to support research and address wildlife health

issues after disasters like wildfires and oil spills. She supported Guide Dogs for the Blind, and American Humane – for which she was involved for nearly half of the organization's 145-year existence.

Soon after her death on Dec. 31, a Betty White Challenge came to be, asking people to donate to an animal shelter or rescue mission in her name on Jan. 17 – which would have been her 100th birthday - to honour her life and legacy.

In our own community, we can accept that challenge and do our part to help the compassionate residents – our friends and neighbours – who we know dedicate the days and nights of their lives to caring for animals. Year-round we can help by donating items these organizations need, or fostering, adopting or volunteering with the animals they serve. On Jan. 17 – or before, or after – we can donate in Betty White's name to continue her work and the work of our neighbours in making a difference for animals in need. Here

are just some of the organizations doing tremendous work in our neighbourhood:

Cats of Paint Lake

A stray and feral cat rescue based in Dorset and serving the Muskoka and Haliburton Highlands areas.

To make a donation, email catsofpaintlake@gmail.com or mail cheques to The Cats of Paint Lake, P.O. Box 344, Dorset, Ontario, POA 1EO. For more information visit: www. thecatsofpaintlake.ca

Highlands Cinemas cats

A second chance and a new permanent home has been offered to almost 50 cats who were abandoned or feral in the area. To make a donation, email keithstata@nexicom.net or mail to Box 85, 4131 Cty Road 121, Kinmount, ON, KOM 2AO. For more information visit:

highlandscinemas.com/ home.php



SUE TIFFIN *Editor*

Minden Cat Angels

A registered charity with a group of volunteers that organized in 2016 to provide shelter and eventual permanent homes for the feral and stray cats in the Minden area. Donations can be made online or cheques can be mailed

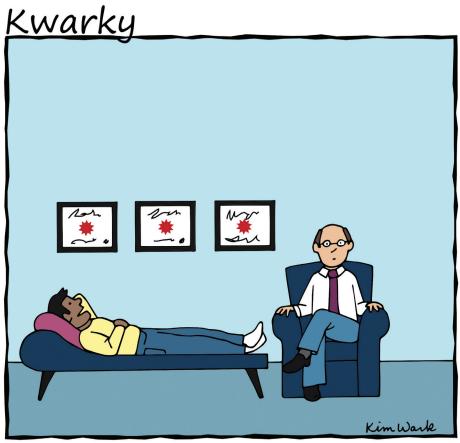
directly to treasurer Debi Robertson of Minden Cat Angels at 14 Highland Gate Blvd., Minden, ON, K0M 2K0. For more information visit: facebook.com/ mindencatangels.

Snowflake Meadows Rescue

An animal rescue service and pet adoption service located in Lochlin. Send an e-transfer to snowflakemeadowsrescue@gmail. com (be sure to write in the message section 'in memory of Betty White'), or call or text 289-338-3429. For more information visit: facebook.com/ SnowflakeMeadows53

Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary

A volunteer-based charity dedicated to the year-round rehabilitation of sick or orphaned animals (wildlife) located in this area. For more information email info@woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca or visit woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca.



"And how does it make you feel when your patient does online research and thinks he's an expert?"

Driving schools revisited

STEVE GALEA

Beyond 35

HIS MORNING I was watching the news when a segment came on that told of how a team of scientists had recently taught goldfish to drive.

Rest easy. They weren't driving cars. That would be silly and possibly illegal since, as far as I know, 16 is still the minimum age required to get a learner's permit.

No, those little fish were driving midsized wheeled aquariums at about two miles an hour – on sidewalks. They steered the vehicle by moving around the aquarium.

Suspiciously enough, the fact that the goldfish was driving on a sidewalk was never actually addressed in the news segment. So, I can't report for sure whether this was because that's what it was instructed to do so, or whether it was just a lousy driver. But let's just say, at no point did they show you the fish attempting to parallel park and not once did it signal. So, I suspect it is the latter.

Of course, that is beside the point, unless they are in the line up in front of you at a boat ramp. Then it's a huge problem.

The main story is that these scientists have finally put to rest the age-old question nagging mankind since even the invention of the first wagon. And the answer is, yes, you can teach anybody to drive.

I have issues with this, however. I think most anglers should be a bit concerned too. After all, teaching fish to drive could have huge impacts on angling, particularly if it catches on.

I know I might be getting ahead of the science here, but we all know how quickly it moves. One minute a goldfish is driving an aquarium on a sidewalk, the next large perch are flying overhead in a jumbo jets. You get the picture.

This is not good for many reasons. Not the least of which is the road rage issue that is sure to occur whenever fighting fish meet at a four-way intersection.

This newfound mobility we are giving fish is going to be a nightmare for anglers. After all, some species are hard enough to catch already. And we always complain that fighting a carp is like reeling in a truck. Now, potentially fighting a sunfish could also potentially be like reeling in a

truck.

If this keeps up it might mean that we will have to eventually stop fishing lakes and rivers and start fishing major thoroughfares where fish are zipping by at 100 kilometres an hour so they can get to their natal streams in time for the spawning season.

Admittedly, this isn't all bad. It will give outdoor writers a lot of new topics to cover. Spoiler alert: I am now

working on my first draft of "Fly fishing for Truckstop Trout" and am poised to become North America's leading expert on the subject. (So, if you see me hanging around a truck stop dressed in nothing but a fishing vest and hip waders, don't be too alarmed.)

And yes, this will probably help fish parents get their youngsters to school more efficiently.

Other than this, I can't see many other benefits – especially if they decide to drive those big old, gas-guzzling classic cars. I mean if God had wanted a fish to drive classic cars, He would have given them fins, Right?

Oh, never mind.

INOTHERWORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Dreaming of life without digital

OW SAD that the sweetest dreams never last long, or come true. Just the other night my fantastically happy dream evaporated into the shrill ring of my mobile phone. The sleepy smile and warm, fuzzy feeling generated by the dream went with it.

Cruellest was the fact that this wonderful dream was ruined by a cell phone. Cruel because the dream was about not having a cell phone, nor other electronic devices such as laptop computer, tablet, television, or so-called smartwatch.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

Not to forget the automobile smart screen that tells me 1,000 things I don't understand, don't want to know, and don't need to know.

When my cell phone's screeching ruined it, my dream had taken me back to ancient days of pens and paper, real time visits to a library and research done with hardcover books. Those days when you needed to communicate with someone, you got up off your gluteus maximus and spoke to them face to

My dream of life without electronic devices was set off by a magazine article I was reading about a

tiny Italian place without the signals that feed cell phones and the internet. Galliano di Mugello is a medieval village in northcentral Italy, somewhere

between Florence and Bologna. It is listed as a "very white zone," an area without reliable cell phone signals and internet service.

When the 1,300 village residents want information, they resort to activities abandoned by much of the rest of the world. They read newspapers, and talk to each other.

They live lives free of digital toxins spilling from the hyperbolic social media world. None of the Twitter nastiness, nor the silliness of Facebook. No YouTube videos of people saying the Jan.6, 2021 armed insurrection in Washington was a normal tourist event.

And, no pets in funny hats on Instagram.

Not only were digital devices absent from my sweet dream, so were the geeky annoyances that accompany them. When you have digital gear, you have to suffer the aggravations of an increasingly omnipresent geek culture.

Geek talk. Geek thinking. You know the stuff. Like when you call a techie line looking for help and 10 minutes later you are staring into your telephone and yelling: "What in God's name are you talking about? Speak English!"

Many Galliano di Mugello citizens are happy living without cell phone service and the internet. Their lives are less complicated and more peaceful without them. In fact, some are promoting the village as a tourist destination for people who simply want time away from the digital world.

Others, however, are starting to protest not being able to make a cell phone call, text friends or search for something on Google. Many have cell phones but can't use them because of weak service signals.

The village mayor is campaigning to get the place fully online, suggesting that Italy's federal government pay mobile phone companies to provide service to the community. Those companies haven't wanted to provide reliable service because they don't think it is worth the cost. Too few people, too

The mayor and his supporters say that digital communication is a basic necessity. They say it is a must have, especially in case of emergencies like earthquakes or floods.

I suppose they do have a point. Digital devices improve our lives in many ways, but there are days when the exasperations seem to outweigh the

The nights following those days are the ones when I have the dream about not having any digital devices. Having true liberty from all the time-consum ing frustrations they carry with them.

The mayor of that little Italian village notes, however, that total freedom from the digital world is not about not having digital devices or the signals that light them up.

"When I went to the beach for 15 days in the summer, I turned off my phone," he said in the magazine story. "The true liberty isn't about not having a signal, but about being able to choose when to switch off."

Point taken, but too many of us are so addicted that we can't summon the nerve to click the things off and spend some time with life as it used to be.

letters to the editor

We've been here before

I've been doing what many others have likely been doing during the pandemic - projects that I've been meaning to turn my attention to. One of them is working through a box of old pictures and other memorabilia that were left at our cottage when my Mom died.

In this assortment, there was a brochure put out by the Stanhope Heritage Discovery Museum (year unknown) entitled, Stanhope Heritage Driving Tour. The mid-section of this brochure contains a section, "Did You Know?". And no, I did not know (and think many others would not know) that, "In 1896, Stanhope suffered a diphtheria epidemic during which schools were closed and all public gatherings including church services, were forbidden. Stanhope council passed a motion to have Minden pay \$60 as compensation for the stamping out of the diphtheria epidemic caused by the negligence of the Minden Board of Health in handling their own epidemic ... And in 1904, smallpox swept through the township and the same curfews were imposed." And we think with this pandemic we are hard done by. Imagine the hardships experienced by many families 120 years ago!

> **Heather Konefat** Maple Lake

Folk Society thanks Canoe FM

To the Editor.

Just recently Canoe FM donated \$5,000 from the proceeds of their very successful Tuesday night Radio Bingo program to the Haliburton County Folk Society.

This donation helps support all of the concerts, open stages and other initiatives that we have provided this past year and will continue to provide in the future once we get beyond the pandemic. We have been able to provide several concerts and keep our monthly Open Stage event going up until now while at the same time meeting all requirements for COVID protocols. In some months we have only been able to provide live-streaming of our Open Stage.

In addition, one of our new committee members, Tom Oliver, has been able to establish a very successful instrument exchange program to provide free used instruments, mostly guitars, to budding musicians who are not able to afford

to buy them. Oliver has also been able to establish a program to provide free guitar lessons to beginning musicians, which has also been very successful and will continue once we are able to.

As you might expect, with our usual audience capacity at the Open Stages restricted to 50 per cent we have not been able to generate the typical revenue that we might receive at our concerts. Thus the donation from Canoe FM has been a wonderful gift to help us to try to keep some live music going in the Highlands during this pandemic and will allow us to keep doing so when we are able.

This is the second donation that Canoe FM has made to support the Folk Society. Thank you to Canoe FM and all of its volunteers for their generous support.

> Walter Tose. chairman of the **Haliburton County Folk Society**

Jr. Book of the Month - January



The seven dragon tribes have been at war for generations, locked in an endless battle over an ancient, lost treasure. A secret movement called the Talons of Peace is determined to bring an end to the fighting, with the help of a prophecy - a foretelling that calls for great sacrifice. Five dragonets are collected to fulfill the prophecy, raised in a hidden cave and enlisted, against their will, to end the terrible war. But not every dragonet wants a destiny. And when the select five escape their underground captors to look for their original homes, what has been unleashed on the dragon world may be far more than the revolutionary planners intended.

The first book in the thrilling fantasy series Wings of Fire, The Dragonet Prophecy by Tui T. Sutherland is a story that soars above the competition and redefines middle-grade fantasy. Check it out from Haliburton County Public Library today, and let this fiery fantasy fiction series distract you from the cold outside.



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to sue@haliburtonpress.com

Ice to the sky

Glenn Chevrette watches as boiling water thrown into the air in the backyard of his Bat Lake Road home becomes a snow-like mist on the morning of Jan. 11 when temperatures reached about -32 C. /Photo submitted by Jackie Mcchesney



THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME OR COTTAGE?

BUYERS ARE EAGERLY WAITING TO PURCHASE A PIECE OF PARADISE IN HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS



RIVERVIEW



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Canadian Climate Action -Have Your Say!

To the Editor,

Hello neighbours, this Friday is the last day we will have an opportunity to comment on the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act (formerly Bill C - 12). The online survey is detailed and the concepts we were asked to consider are complex. Fortunately help is available to make up for this regrettably short

The non-profit Canadian organization Climate Messengers offers us the benefit of their extensive research on all aspects under consideration. Well-written sample answers are provided for our use. We may edit them, we may copy and paste them in their entirety, or provide our own personal responses. Of course any question which we feel our background may be lacking and thus we are not comfortable with using a pre-prepared response may be left blank.

Simply entering - https://climatemessengers.ca/govt-consultations/ - in the search bar will lead you to the site being recommended. The toolkit being made available for our use includes the option "I'm stressed for time. Take me to the sample answers."

You will be met with the following introduction:

"Today thanks in part to the tireless advocacy of many climate activists, Canada now has the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act (formerly Bill C-12). As part of the Act, the Environment Minister is legally obligated to establish a plan to achieve Canada's 2030 GHG emissions reduction target. This is

a moment of opportunity, because the Minister must consult us before he establishes the plan. And the Minister has to publish a report on the consultations, which means he has to actually reply to our submissions.

The Environment Minister's public consultations on the plan to achieve Canada's GHG emissions reduction target opened on or about 14 December 2021 and closes 14 January 2022.

It is very important that regular Canadian citizens who are concerned about climate change participate in these consultations. By adding your voice, you help to press the government to act with sufficient speed and sufficient strength. That is vital. As we saw in the recently completed consultations by the Net Zero Advisory Body, the fossil fuel lobby has large and well-organized groups of individuals who oppose climate change action. Some register their denial that man-made climate change is real. Others say we must go slow, while making as much profits from Canada's fossil fuels as possible. Together, they act as a powerful force on the government to move too slowly on plans that are too watered down to make the big GHG reductions that matter. We need the government to know that we understand what needs to be done, that we support them in doing it, and that we require them to do it NOW.

This is our chance to tell them!

John Gibb Minden

Enviro-Heroes celebrated by land trust

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is pleased to announce the winners of the 2021 Enviro-Hero Awards.

Each year HHLT seeks nominations for individuals and/ or a group who, through their own initiative and dedication, have contributed to the protection and sustainability of the lands, waters, and species that live there.

This year, in the category of education, we have selected Terry Moore. Terry has been at the forefront of many environmental issues facing Haliburton County and is dedicated to protecting our environment and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. He was key in the creation of the radio show "Planet Haliburton" on Canoe FM and has interviewed over 94 environmental and climate experts over the years. He is a committee member of Seniors for Climate Action Now! and is involved in promoting the Shoreline Preservation bylaw. Terry and his wife Shirley started the Haliburton Green Burial Society in memory of their son Kyle.

In the category of stewardship and education we have chosen to award the Haliburton County Master Gardeners. The master gardeners work within our community to provide advice and education to individuals and other community groups on a variety of gardening land stewardship topics. Their current focus is on native plants and naturalization of

properties, including shorelines. Their website www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca is currently being updated to include information on how you can plant and grow your own fruits and vegetables and much more information on a variety of gardening topics.

The HHLT Enviro-Hero Youth Award goes to Grade 8 student Blake Parkinson. Blake cottages with his grandparents on Lake Kashagawigamog each summer. His goal is to educate others about the environment through social media and other environmentally focused activities and projects. He has achieved much in his young life. Blake started a campaign at his school to raise money to help beluga whales, organized a garbage clean-up initiative, a beach clean-up, and "Swim for the Sea" at the cottage where people swam across the lake to raise money for WWF. Blake started his own Planet Protectors page on Instagram and during the pandemic created his own weekly live episodes. The series started with five Youtube sessions called Blake on the Lake.

HHLT is pleased to honour these wonderful stewards, educators and advocates with a 2021 HHLT Enviro-Hero Award. An in-person award ceremony will take place at a later date.

Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

Open for takeout

During the current government restrictions, the following businesses are still open for takeout. Due to the evolving situation with COVID-19, please call ahead before venturing out to any of the businesses listed below, to ensure that operations are still up and running prior to your visit.

For more information visit myhaliburtonhighlands.com/ dinner-on-the-dock.

Country Bakery

1021 East Road, Carnarvon

Baked goods, savouries and desserts. Open Friday to Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. https://www.facebook.com/ countrybaked

Call: 705-489-2917

Boshkung Lakeside, **Boshkung Social**

9201, Highway 118, Carnarvon /20 Water Street, Minden

Beer and merchandise can be purchased online or be brought right to the trunk of your car when you call ahead. www.boshkungbrewing.com. Call: 705-286-2711

Kate's Burger Counter

1184 Kashagawigamog Lake Road,

Fast food counter service focusing on handmade food. Friday to Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pick up at takeout window. https://www.facebook.com/ katesburgercounter/menu

Call: 705-286-4554

The Mill Pond Restaurant

15526, Highway 35, Minden Offering breakfast, lunch and din-

ner. Stop by to place your order at their window, or call ahead and staff will bring your order to your vehicle.

https://www.themillpondrestaurant. com/

Call: 705-489-3353

Minden Legion

12847, Highway 35, Minden Offering full menu takeout Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Friday, fish and chips or wings and chips are available from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Call for daily specials. More information: Visit Minden Legion Branch 636 on

Call: 705-286-4541

Facebook.

Molly's Bistro Bakery

170 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden Daily specials, carry home cuisine and Saturday Date Night Dinners for two. Open Wednesday to Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

http://www.mollysbistrobakery.ca/ menu.php

Call: 705-286-6988.

The Moose n Paddle

1092 Main Street, Dorset

Open snow or shine, offering delicious food by land or lake. Open Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. https:// www.facebook.com/themoosenpaddle Call: 705-783-4416.

Mulligan's Pub and Patio

111 Golf Course Road, Minden

Bar and restaurant located along the Gull River. Open for breakfast Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and for lunch and dinner from Monday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. https://www.mulliganspubandpatio.

Call: 705-286-6666

Nourished by Raisin the Root

27 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden Healthy, delicious, nutrient-dense, vegan, gluten free food available for takeout every Friday from 12 to 6 in Minden. www.raisintheroot.com Call: 705-306-0526

Red Umbrella 1075 Red Umbrella Road, Minden Pizza, pasta, dessert and more. Open for takeout Tuesday to Saturday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. https://www.facebook. com/RedUmbrellaInn/

Call: 705-489-2462

The Minden River Cone

119 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden Specialty coffee, breakfast sandwiches and weekly entree specials. Offering Monday to Friday 7 a.m. breakfast, and lunch takeout with occasional dinner and weekend hours.

Call: 705-286-3456

Robinson's Cafe and Gelato

1061 Main Street, Dorset Hot speciality coffees, fresh gelato flavours. https://www.facebook.com/ RobinsonsCafeDorset Call: 705-766-2415

The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta

15141, Highway 35, Minden

Open six days a week from 4 p.m., closed Tuesdays. Curbside service provided with sanitized and tap-enabled credit card machines connecting to wifi from the parking lot. Staff will deliver your order to your vehicle.

Call: 705-489-1939

The Post House

1297 Kashagawigamog Lake Road, Minden

Gourmet breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. Place your order in advance. https://haliburtonposthouse.ca/ gourmet-to-go/

Call: 416-432-4058

Up River Trading Co.

106 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden

Tea, coffee, espresso drinks, baked goods and treats - including fudge. Open seven days a week, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday to Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. https://www. facebook.com/UpRiverTradingCo

Call: 705-286-1015

Val's Soul Food

6254 Hwy 121, Minden

Soul to go – prepared meals in heat and serve containers. Pre-order online or by phone, and pick up orders every Saturday and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. https://www.valssoulfood. com/online-ordering

Call: 705-808-2540

Submitted by Haliburton Highlands Tourism

B005T UP.

Book your booster today.

Protect yourself against COVID-19.

It's up to all of us.



Small but mighty: a new truck for MH Fire Department

You will notice a new fire truck responding to calls within Minden Hills township. The department just received their new initial attack fire apparatus.

The truck may be small but it packs some major fire suppression, especially with a 5,000 litre per minute pump, a 750 litre water tank, a 60 litre foam tank and a host of other customizable features in this quick attack footprint. The F550 Ford rapid attack unit was built by Pierce Manufacturing and purchased through Commercial Truck Equipment Company of Woodstock, Ontario.

More than two years ago, council had approved the purchase of a new fire apparatus and the retirement of the 1995 International. The vehicle took 16 months to build - this was prolonged due to the pandemic - but the truck was built with very few delays. The longest wait was for the chassis from Ford. The new F550 is a 2021 four-by-four crew cab, which was built and outfitted by Pierce Manufacturing. The town had allotted \$470,000 in its 2019 budget towards the purchase of a pumper truck and the truck cost came in at \$464,000.

We selected the mini-pumper style for several reasons the smaller size allows us to manoeuvre on the smaller roads within the community. The next feature that will be handy is the four-wheel-drive capability - there are lots of steep hills, turns and areas that our large truck has difficulty maneuvering through. The smaller size and the four-by-four capability will allow our volunteer firefighters safer driving capabilities, especially when it snows or is icy.

The lighter weight will also allow us access to areas that the larger trucks cannot drive to. There are many times the crews pulled hose from the road, down the driveway and set up near the home, because the driveway turn is too small or the driveway is too congested with boats, vehicles, trees, rocks, and sheds. The smaller truck can fit in some of these areas and down the congested, tight or steep driveways.

The smaller truck does not carry all of the same amount of equipment as the bigger units, but it is outfitted with the required equipment and is ready for most calls. The unit is capable and ready to respond to structure fires, vehicle fires, wildland fires, grass fires, motor vehicle collisions, medical calls and rescues. The unit can draft from a water source such as a lake or river, and can relay water to the larger unit if needed.



There's a new fire truck responding to calls within Minden Hills township. The lighter weight of the truck allows the department access to areas that the larger trucks cannot drive to, including down congested, tight or steep driveways. /Photos submitted by the Minden Hills Fire Department

If we need to fight a fire in a rural area that is not protected by fire hydrants, we can set up to supply water to the scene. The smaller truck can access water sources that the bigger trucks could not get to. This truck will then be able to pump water to the trucks at the scene.

All of our fire apparatus are capable of accomplishing multiple situations and incidents - they are all ready for fires, medical calls, rescues and motor vehicle collisions. We have a saying, "one is none, two is one, and three means that we have a back-up."

The addition of this new unit provides us with three fire trucks that can respond. The smaller unit gives us diversity, which we did not have before.

- Submitted by Nelson Johnson, fire chief, Minden Hills Fire Department

Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation flexible in new year

by STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Times

Fingers crossed, you might get a chance to raise a glass to the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation this summer.

The charitable arm of the popular cultural centre was gearing up to bring back its annual Fire and Ice Festival, a scotch tasting and wine drinking event to raise funds for programs, when the fifth wave of the pandemic and government restrictions made the board rethink the event for this summer.

If it can go ahead at some point – and organizers are conscious of the fact that the ongoing COVID pandemic could change things – it will mark a monumental return to normalcy.

"Every charity in Canada is struggling and we're not unique to that," said Neil Briggs, a member of the foundation's board. "The last couple years it's been dormant."

In an interview, he and board director David Rae said that, whatever happens, the foundation is preparing to be flexible, and the hope is that 2022 marks a return to normalcy, where programs, visits to the centre and fundraisers can continue without interruption. Last year's Fire and Ice Festival was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Typically the event takes place on the Sunday of Family Day weekend.

The event, historically, is well supported and offers a chance for local restaurants to showcase food, as well as a tasting of premium scotch, whisky, wine and beer.

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre, located at 176 Bobcaygeon Rd., is owned and operated by the municipality. The four-acre site features the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, the Minden Hills Museum & Heritage Village, an interpretive area known as Nature's Place, and the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library.

Briggs and Rae said that the foundation doesn't have a target fundraising goal for the year, but whatever funds are raised will support programs in general. The foundation hopes to raise funds that would provide subsidies for disad-



Participants run with snowshoes around the bonfire at the Minden Cultural Centre, as part of a previous Fire and Ice event in Minden. The event was planning a February return through the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation but due to current pandemic restrictions, is now being organized for this summer instead. /FILE photo

vantaged youth to enrol in education programs, as well as and Minden and people feel strongly about supporting the capital projects. For instance, the centre, hopes to place a bust arts; there's a long history of that," he said, adding that the of MHCC foundational artist André Lapine at the site.

The foundation's operational costs are covered by the cultural centre's board, which means that 100 per cent of public donations go to programs.

Briggs said the foundation hopes to raise its profile in 2022, by building a heavier online presence – a new website is in the works - and doing more to talk to potential donors about ways they can give, such as through estate planning or by donating works of art for the gallery.

Fortunately, getting people to understand the importance of the centre has never been a hard sell, said Rae.

"There's a strong artistic community in Haliburton County

plethora of local artists also draw tourists to the area.

MHCCF board of directors for the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year are Briggs, Rea, Susan Murray and Sue Tiffin. The board thanks retiring board members Patricia Walshe and Jim Mitchell for their service on the MHCCF board and to the community.

For more details on the foundation or the upcoming festival email mindenhillsccfoundation@gmail.com.

To donate, see the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation profile page at www.canadahelps.org or my.charitableimpact.

Moose n' Paddle offers a year-round bite for Dorset

Special to the Times

The town of Dorset is the gateway to Muskoka and Haliburton County depending on which way you're going.

Robinson's General Store has been a landmark in Dorset for years. Located right on the waterfront, it's been a stop for many cottagers in the summer and snowmobilers during the winter. One thing that Dorset lacked however, was a proper food truck that operated year-round. When Mike and Katie Hinbest bought the Dorset general store and marina, they wanted to elevate the area by adding a quick snack stop.

Being avid snowmobilers themselves, the Hinbests wanted to find a way to have more people stop into Dorset on their way through the area. Listening to their customers, they were able to hear a lot of ideas and from that laundry list of ideas, the Moose n' Paddle food truck was born.

"We were looking around for what the town needs," said Mike. "Our customers wanted more year-round food options and we are big snowmobilers ourselves so we noticed Dorset needed a reason to stop. We started a Facebook group called 'Sled Stop' and at the marina we now have 'the Fuel, the Food and the Fun' as we call it. So it becomes more of a place to stop when you come through."

Adding in a heated tent area and a fire pit, the downtown core of Dorset has grown to become a great place to grab lunch on your way through, and even stop in as a local. Aiming to kill as many birds as they could with one COVIDsafe stone, the food truck is not just a food truck.

"I like to describe it as a high-quality restaurant inside of a food truck," Mike said. "We have a five-star chef who does more than just your standard burger and fries, we've got steak frites, chicken and rice and yes, you can 100 per cent get a burger if that's what you're craving. We have vegan options, a gluten-friendly fryer - we have something for everyone."

When it came to the menu, Mike knew what he wanted and entrusted his chef to work their magic to create the menu we see today. Two popular dishes are the paddlers 5 oz tenderloin steak frites with peppercorn demi-glace and the country smoke house burger. The gourmet dishes being served out of the truck have added that year-round, quick-stop food option the town needed.

A daily featured soup, chili or stew is listed as a 'Soul Warmer,' while an Algonquin herb grilled chicken sandwich on a potato scallion bun, Mediterranean sandwich and 'the Leafer' offer a warm lunch with an option to add herbed rice, fries, country coleslaw and BBQ baked beans. Breakfast options including a Good Ol' Egger – a fried egg sandwich with cheese on an all-butter croissant roll - grilled peameal bacon BLT on a brioche bun or sausage on a bun offer a unique early-morning selection, while cheesecake with cherry sauce, caramel sauce or chocolate sauce provides a sweet treat. A kids' menu is available as well.

The restaurant also offers an online ordering system so that food can be ordered in advance and ready when customers

Opening up in the winter is always tough, but opening up in the rural Canadian winter is an even bigger challenge. The community answered the call and stepped up to support the truck with open arms.

"The community has really supported us," Mike said. "The winter is a harder time and they have definitely come on out as much as they can - the construction workers have been to grab a bite for lunch as well. In sled season and in the summer it'll pick up, but we are fortunate to have a lot of compliments so far."

Despite having no prior restaurant experience, Mike knew that there was a need in the community and he aimed to fill it. The Hinbests originally came from Orangeville and moved up north in part to be closer to the sledding trails. Having originally worked in the automotive repair business, they took a brief retirement before they decided the general store would be their next passion project.

"We had never sold groceries before buying the store, but we aim to tell our customers that we do more than that," Mike said. "We sell Muskoka and Haliburton family memories. It's all about the experience, and that's what's the most fun for us. Helping families build memories together, and leaving a lasting memory."

The Moose n' Paddle is open Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Heated, covering seating is available.

Visit the Moose n' Paddle in person at Robinson's Marina, 1092 Main Street in Dorset just after the bridge, virtually at themoosenpaddle on Facebook or Instagram, or order in advance at https://themoosenpaddle.lightspeedordering.com/.



The Moose n' Paddle food truck opened in Dorset at the end of last year, noting, "with pristine lake views and ample outdoor firepit seating, we're the next best thing to your typical road trip rest stop." Meals can be ordered online in advance, ready for a customer's arrival. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



A chicken caesar sandwich

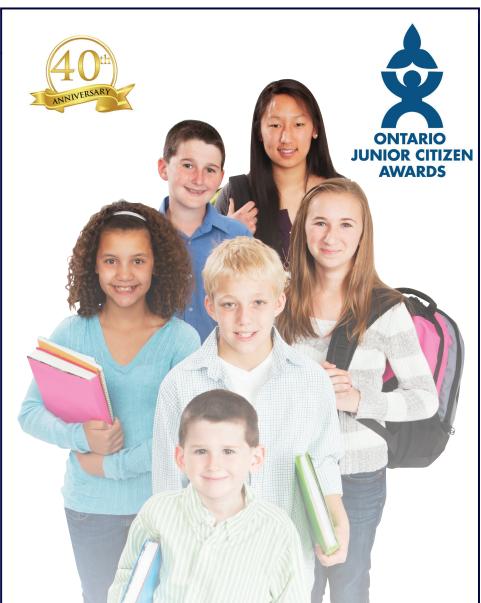




Plant sale proceeds to spring Water Festival back to life

organization FEEL (Friends of Ecological Environmental Learning) is holding its annual native plant sale. The proceeds support programs such as the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Lakes Children's Water Festival. /Photo by Stone Tree Studio





NOMINATIONS WANTED!

Do you know someone between the ages of 6 - 17 who is making a difference within their community? Nominate them for an **Ontario Junior Citizen Award today!**

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 11, 2022

Nomination forms are available from this newspaper, and at www.ocna.org/juniorcitizen. Email jr.citizen@ocna.org for more information.



by STEPHEN PETRICK Special to the Times

If you're a friend of the environment, you have a chance to plant the seeds for a feelgood movement.

Local environmental organization FEEL (Friends of Ecological Environmental Learning) is holding its annual native plant

The proceeds support programs such as the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Lakes Children's Water Festival. The 2020 festival, which was scheduled for September at the Kinark Outdoor Centre, was cancelled due to

COVID, but FEEL hopes to bring it back this year, hopefully in the

Supporters can pre-order plants from the group's website at ecoenvirolearn.org.

The plants come from two local nurseries and garden centres and are all native species to the Haliburton, Kawartha and Muskoka area, said sale co-ordinator Sable Robertson. The organization hopes the sale encourages more people to grow native species of plants, and discourage non-native species that can damage the environment.

The products available include shrubs, perennials and other themed bundles of plants. They are inexpensive, as most of the products are in the \$5 to \$10 price range.

The public has until March 31 to place an order. The plants are then available to pickup on May 14 at Haliburton Highlands Brewing.

FEEL is a non-profit organization that, in addition to the plant sale and water festival, is known for publication of The Sprite, a newsletter designed to enhance environmental and ecological education for children. It's also involved in a Canada-wide initiative to promote the use of rain barrels.

The annual water festival, however, is one of its marquee initiatives. It typically involves 40 to 50 activities, with a focus on educating students about water in terms of conservation, related technologies, protection and science, including a conscientious attitude to ensuring the cleanliness of water.

For more information on the festival, visit www.hmwaterfestival.ca/the-festival.



Jackpot!

Pauline Plooard rang in the new year as the grand prize winner of the biggest Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation 50/50 raffle lottery prize to date. Plooard's winning ticket (F-4515069) was drawn on Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, making her the winner of a \$7,080 jackpot. In January there will again be two early bird prizes of \$250 added to the draw schedule on Jan. 17, with the grand prize draw taking place Feb. 1. Tickets are now available for purchase for the January draws at www.hhhsf5050.ca, and in person at the HHHS Foundation's Haliburton office at 7199 Gelert Road. Visit the website for the rules of play, to see the current estimated take-home prize and to purchase tickets. /Photo submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation

Ice racing enthusiast starting one cool school

Special to the Times

Zack Wenzel has studied his favourite sport from the top of the snowbanks at Minden Fairgrounds for years.

Now, he hopes to pass on his knowledge and keep the culture of ice racing – and the unique camaraderie among its competitors alive.

The 23-year-old from King City is getting ready to launch the Ontario Ice Academy. It's a training program that will give drivers an opportunity to try ice racing before entering competitions. He hopes it will give people the extra "seat time" they need to race successfully, but, perhaps more importantly, give them an opportunity to fall in love with the truly unique form of auto racing.

The Minden Fairgrounds track is a busy place for auto racing enthusiasts come January and February; it's the only place in Southern Ontario where ice racing is offered. Some of the most die-hard auto racers in Ontario – the kind that don't mind spending a day in freezing temperatures – gather there and form lasting friendships.

"I want it to be a long-term thing, I want it to be a positive thing for new rookies and people who want to give ice racing a try," Wenzel said.

"I want more racers to keep coming and have more competitions. As people get older they kind of stop. I don't want that to go away. I love it, (the fairgrounds track) is a great place to be on the weekend; there's something special about it."

Wenzel hopes to have the Academy de-



Zack Wenzel is pictured in one of his vehicles during a past ice race at the Minden Fairgrounds. /Submitted photo

but on Thursday, Jan. 27 (but, of course, COVID-19 public health measures and government restrictions could change things). It would then run on the next five Thursdays

For \$1,000, participants would have a full day on the track and the use of one of Wenzel's custom-made ice racing vehicles (or they can use their own vehicle). They would also be hooked up with coaches, who can show them the ropes.

While it's a big financial commitment, Wenzel said the charge is necessary considering the Academy has to rent the track for the day and provide vehicles.

Participants can learn about the two classes of ice racing - the rubber tire class and the stud tires class - and how to navigate the tricky roads.

Wenzel, like many in the ice racing community, agrees that ice racing is one of the safest forms of auto racing, as it's difficult for drivers to get up to speeds where they're at risk of a serious crash.

But the sport requires an incredible amount of driving skill, as drivers have to think quickly about how their tires will move on the track and how they'll handle both

It's all about traction, Wenzel said.

"Every section changes all the time. Sometimes it's riding two wheels on the snow, sometimes it's two wheels on the ice. It's a lot about throttle control ... and using your momentum the best you can to move around the track."

And those who go too fast can find themselves in a snowbank quick.

"The famous words: 'slow is fast," Wenzel said.

Wenzel has been driving in ice racing competitions since he was about 16, but he has been around the sport for much longer.

His father, Jeffrey Wenzel, was an ice racer and Zack tagged along at racing events with him from the time he was a toddler. His grandfather, Gordon Wenzel, was also an auto racer, though he didn't race on ice.

Wenzel noted that to be an ice racer, it's important to have a support system. He says father-like figures in the ice racing community, such as Richard Boake and "jack-of-alltrades" Ian MacIntyre have helped him work on cars and learn about the sport.

Wenzel hopes his academy will have a similar positive influence on drivers, and the ice racing community as a whole.

If the pandemic derails the ice racing season like it did last year, he won't fret, because his intention is to have the course running for

"If COVID brings us down again, I'll be more ready for 2023," he said.

To get in touch with Wenzel and learn more about the program, email him at zack@ steelcasetires.ca

Minden Skating Club unearths missing history

by NICK BERNARD

Times Staff

As far as Jane Symons understood, 2021 was very much the 50th anniversary of the Minden Skating Club. An email with Skate Canada even confirmed it - the Minden Figure Club was inaugurated in 1971. Or so everyone thought.

It wasn't until Symons began preparations for the Big Five-Oh that she discovered a Tupperware bin, filled with scrapbooks, tucked away on a forgotten shelf somewhere. Inside one of the scrapbooks, mixed in with various news clippings that spanned the decades, was a letter prepared sometime in 1984 by one Eleanor Hall.

"The Minden Figure Skating Club was formed in March of 1948," the typewritten letter said. Eleanor Hall's name was written in the corner, after it was prepared. "In 1950 the Club became active under the sanction of the Canadian Figure Skating Association."

Its first president was Mrs. Olga Myles, and Joseph Pope the first Club Professional. The letter went on to list the successive presidents and all of the club's instructors, covering over 30 years of club history.

"I didn't get the chance to read it all, but I was quite mesmerized," Symons said of her discovery of the scrapbook and the letter within. "I also have the email from Skate Canada that says we joined in '71. But thankfully, this Eleanor Hall was so on top of it."

She says Hall's letter is absolutely not a

"I'm very doubtful it's a typo," she said. She wonders whether Skate Canada had, in fact, researched the wrong club. "I sent [Skate Canada] another memo saying 'I think we're older than that – can you confirm.' Because here I was, all ready to celebrate 50 years and I thought I would make a big stink about it, but I didn't want to be wrong.

She also says much of the club's history can be found in some of the names that appear in the letter.

"Some of these coaches that go way back: Grace Coburn? Oh my goodness. Elwood Cox, Marg McKay, Libby Griffiths?"

One name that appears is Guy Gordon's, who has been a member of the skating club since the 1960s. He agrees with Eleanor Hall's account of the club starting in 1950, based on his knowledge of the facilities and other nearby clubs' activities at that time.

"Bobcaygeon's [skating club] started in '54," he recalled. "And Minden had an arena before then ... their old arena that was downtown before [the former S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, decommissioned in 2019] was built. It was an old tin roof one. And the rain came through on a test day."

Symons, a lifelong skater herself, has been part of the skating club since she was just out of college.

"I had called around to see if there was a club that I could skate," Symons recalled. She was given the offer to be an instructor right off the bat. "I've skated for years. I've been on the ice since I was five.

When Symons first started, instructors didn't require certifications. When the time came for Symons to complete hers, it was a shoe-in. She went on to become certified to coach at the national level, which she has been doing since the 80s.

As for which anniversary is the true anni-

versary, Symons says she's given up trying to figure it out. She says there have already been at least two celebrations for the club's

"I kind of chuckled because ... [2021 was] my 40th year," she said, with that same chuckle. "I remember celebrating the club's 40th twice now, so I don't know how old we

For now, all the paperwork seems to disagree. With three potential actual anniversary dates in the running, and with Symons' dedication to teaching the next generation to skate, the Minden Skating Club will always have a reason to celebrate.

No shot at Canadian National Pond Hockey this year

The Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships is cancelled for 2022.

The multi-day outdoor hockey tournament was hoping to return to action after a two-year pause caused by the pandemic. This year it was scheduled to be held over the Jan. 28/29 weekend and the Feb. 4/5 weekend on the 14-acre pond in front of the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre in Haliburton.

However the province's decision to return to the modified version of Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen on Jan. 5 has ended any hope for an event that was expecting 100 teams and several hundred

It's left business owners and event operators such as John Teljeur, who runs the hockey tournament disappointed.

"We are sad and disappointed to officially cancel the 2022 Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships. We looked at various options and held on as long as we could hoping things would stabilize but the current COVID restrictions would make it nearly impossible to

safely, responsibly and effectively run the event at Pinestone as we have in the past. We will be in contact with all registered teams regarding registration fee options and room reservations as soon as we can. Pinestone is already working on cancelling booked rooms for the event. To all of our players, volunteers and supporters, keep the faith and stay safe – we will be

The Roadmap to Reopen, which has included a move to online learning for students, a reduction of indoor gatherings to five people and outdoor gatherings to 10 people, closing indoor dining at restaurants, requiring businesses and organizations to ensure employees work remotely unless the nature of their work requires them to be onsite, and limiting capacity at indoor weddings, funerals and religious services, is expected to last 21 days (until Jan.26). It is subject to change depending on trends in public health and health system indicators.

Staff

Former Red Hawk joins Bobcats' lacrosse program

The Gill family prepares as son Jaxon takes next step in lacrosse journey

by ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Times

While lacrosse has changed a lot since its inception, in 2022 two major lacrosse leagues exist in North America. The professional box lacrosse league for North America, the NLL (National Lacrosse League), and the professional field lacrosse for America, the PLL (Premier Lacrosse League). Both represent two sides of a distinct and unique sport. One athlete who looks to make a name for himself in the sport is Archie Stouffer Elementary School graduate and former Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawk, Jaxon Gill.

Originally from Little Britain, Jaxon started out playing AAA hockey for the Mariposa Lightning. Rather than staying home and playing video games all summer, his mom Jennifer looked for something active that he could do after the hockey season was over. Taking up lacrosse at the age of seven, Jaxon found a love for it very quickly.

"We found a great lacrosse program with the Kawartha Lakes Fury," said Jennifer. "He played one season of box lacrosse, then we transitioned to field lacrosse and he was hooked ever since. We still continued in the hockey journey and he won an OMHA title. When we moved up to Haliburton County in 2016 he was playing for a rep team in Aurora. This team was made up of some of the province's most elite players. His dream was to



Hawks athlete Jaxon Gill, in white, carries the ball in a lacrosse game for the Virginia-based Christchurch School in the U.S. /Photo submitted

Former Red

play division one lacrosse and he knew from a very young age that he wanted to do it."

In 2019, his family looked down south for some programs to help Jaxon achieve his dream. Touring around 20 or so schools, the Gill family decided to send Jaxon to the Christchurch School in Christchurch, Virginia.

A school with a rich sports program, it has had some notable alumni in both politics and sports. After seeing much success at Christchurch, Jaxon achieved his dream and committed to Quinnipiac University in Connecticut for the 2022-23 season. Playing in the Metro Atlantic Conference, Jaxon will be facing some stiff competition from some iconic schools: Siena College, Canisius College and Marist College. They are among

some of the heavy hitters in the division, but he will also get a chance to play against schools like Yale University, Sacred Heart and Harvard.

"On Sept. 1 of my Grade 11 year at Christchurch that [was] when recruiting starts for D1 teams," Jaxon told the *Times*. "I knew I wanted to be on a D1 team as it was a goal [I had] since I was 10. One of my main things was the school has to have the program that I wanted. I didn't want to go to a massive school because I wanted to focus more on my academics, and Quinnipiac had everything I wanted."

Jaxon will also be able to focus a lot on his education where he will major in communications and take a minor in journalism. Looking to set himself up for a great career should he choose to pursue one after his lacrosse journey ends, Jaxon gets the added luxury of being able to combine his love for a program and a sport at the same time.

With the NLL having five teams in Canada and the majority of the players hailing from Canada, the U.S.A. or the Iroquois Nation, Jaxon was able to train and learn from some of the best in the industry.

"Working with Tracy Kelusky was awesome," Jaxon said. "I played for his Elite Lacrosse travel team out in Aurora and he really taught me a lot. He is the one that got me interested in college lacrosse, he helped out a lot with recruiting as well. He has a lot of contacts in colleges and gave me a lot of points on what to look for in a school."

Kelusky, who is from Peterborough, was a five-time all-star and finished with 823 points (383 goals and 440 assists) after a 14-year career in the NLL. He was a No. 1 overall pick in the 2000 NLL Entry Draft and went on to take Rookie of the Year honours in 2001.

While Jaxon would love the chance to play at the highest level, it's clear that even if he chooses not to play he will still be involved in the lacrosse world.

"I wanna stay connected to lacrosse somehow," Jaxon continued. "I'm not sure if I want to play pro lacrosse, but I do know I want to be connected, whether it be coaching or helping high schools recruit players. Just something within the sport."

However, there is one more thing that shares a spot in his heart: Haliburton County. Despite the fact he only moved to the area in 2016, he still embraced the county as his own.

"We came up here for a restart," Jennifer said. "He was in Grade 8 when we moved here and I think he has made lifelong friends here. It was a hard decision for him to leave for the States but he has maintained the friendships here. He loves the small town atmosphere and was able to take that to university."

Sudoku brought to you by

LISA MERCER BROKER

Don't keep me a secret.



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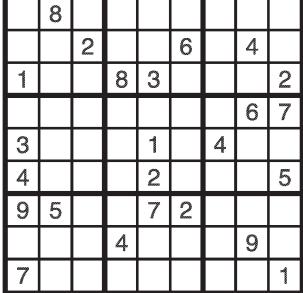
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SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles?
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evel: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 16









2022 Municipal Election

Joint Compliance Audit Committee Members

The Corporations of the Township of Algonquin Highlands, the Township of Minden Hills, the Municipality of Dysart et al and the Municipality of Highlands East, are currently seeking interested applicants from professionals who are required to adhere to codes of standards of their profession, and other individuals with in depth knowledge of the campaign financing rules of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* for appointment to a **Joint Compliance Audit Committee**.

The Joint Compliance Audit Committee has full delegation of the authority in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, to address applications requesting an audit of a candidate's election campaign finances. This authority includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Review applications and grant or reject audit requests
- Where an audit is granted, appoint an auditor and review the audit report
- Where indicated, decide whether legal proceedings shall be commenced.

The Joint Compliance Audit Committee will consist of members appointed by each Council. Committee members must have the ability to understand and apply the election campaign finance provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and should be considered impartial with respect to their ability to fulfill their responsibilities. Preference shall be given to candidates that have applicable experience in accounting, law, law enforcement and academics from related fields.

Preferred Qualifications

- (a) Accounting and audit accountants or auditors with experience in preparing or auditing the financial statements of municipal candidates;
- (b) Academic college or university professors with expertise in political science or local government administration;
- (c) Legal; and
- (d) Other individuals with knowledge of the campaign financing rules of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996.

Members of the public interested in serving on this Committee are asked to submit a resume, and covering letter, marked "Confidential" no later than Noon on January 28, 2022 to:

Robyn Rogers, Clerk Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East 2249 Loop Road, P.O. Box 295, Wilberforce, ON KOL 3C0

 $For further information, please \ contact \ Robyn \ Rogers, \ Clerk \ by \ email \ at \ rrogers@highlandseast.ca$

We thank all applicants for applying, but only the selected candidates will be contacted. Personal information and supporting material is collected and used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

GENERATIONS

Building together

Minden love to build using lots of different materials. One afternoon one of the children began to build a tall tower using wooden blocks on top of a shelf. He worked with great focus to build until he discovered that his tower was taller than he could reach! He asked for help placing the taller blocks and the other children heard his call, came over to help, and realized what he had been doing. They came together to build as a group, the taller ones placing blocks on the top of the tower, some sharing their vision for the building, and others going to gather more materials as needed.

At one point the tower got knocked and part of it fell over. I could see that some of the children were upset to see their hard work crash to the ground, but one of the children quickly exclaimed "We can fix it!" The chil-

dren who had been upset took big breaths to help them re-focus, and they worked together to make their structure even better, focusing on the stability of the blocks.

It was amazing watching the children communicate, using a combination of words and gestures, their big ideas, tips and tricks, as well as praise, and encouragement. I was especially impressed with how they listened to each other and co-regulated their emotions when set-backs occurred. Watching this experience I can tell that the preschool children are comfortable and confident working together in a group and leaning on each other's skills and knowledge; I can't wait to see what else they can do when they work together!

> Lindsay Jowett OCT Admin Lead Compass ELC Minden



The preschool children at Compass ELC Minden love to build using lots of different materials



One afternoon one of the children began to build a tall tower using wooden blocks on top of a shelf. He worked with great focus to build until he discovered that his tower was taller than he could reach!



He asked for help placing the taller blocks and the other children, heard his call, came over to help, and realized what he had been doing.



They came together to build as a group.





PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

- 1. File No. PLSRA2020067: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull River, lying in front 1020 Moore Lake Estates Road located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
- 2. File No. PLSRA2020043: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Black Lake, lying in front of 11255 Black Lake (Water Access Only) located within Lot 25, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
- 3. File No. PLSRA2020056: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Black Lake, lying in front of 11267 Black Lake (Water Access Only) located Lot 25, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
- 4. File No. PLSRA2021058: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1023 Pocket Trail located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 5. File No. PLSRA2021059: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of Vacant Land having Roll Number 4616-030-000-81002-0000 on Pocket Trail located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 6. File No. PLSRA2021060: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1010 Crofters Lane located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 7. File No. PLSRA2021061: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1014 Crofters Lane located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 8. File No. PLSRA2021062: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1032 Crofters Lane located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 9. File No. PLSRA2021063: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of Vacant Land having Roll Number 4616-030-000-80500-0000 on Crofters Lane located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 10. File No. PLSRA2021064: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of Vacant Land having Roll Number 4616-030-000-80400-0000 on Crofters Lane located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
- 11. File No. PLSRA2021079: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of 1540 Twelve Mile Lake Road located within Lot 8, Concession 10 Geographic Township of Minden

The above noted plans of surveys are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience. If deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons) Township Planning Consultant

705-742-2297x278 adougherty@mindenhills.ca

HISTORY IN THE HIGHLANDS

Have you heard of Fenton Bake?

In the latter half of the 19th century, several women were sorry that they had made his acquaintance. He married all of them, ignoring that the rule was only one at a time.

Fenton was arrested in 1894, turned in by wife No. 2 who lived in Lutterworth township. The news was reported province-wide and the *Hamilton Evening Times* had this detailed account of his trial:

Had three wives

And He Got Three Years in the Penitentiary

Lindsay, Ont., June 15. – A case of bigamy was tried on Thursday before Judge Dean and a jury at the Sessions here. In 1874 a man named Fenton Bake was married to Miss Martha Wilsher at St. John's Church, Toronto, by the Rev. Alexander Williams. Miss Wilsher was not long from England, and Bake had friends there also. He was at the



ADELE ESPINAHistory in the Highlands

time a member of the choir at St. John's Church, but he was somewhat irregular in his attendance. One child was born to the young couple. They did not live happily together, and in two or three years, Mrs. Bake left for England during his temporary absence from home, and has not since lived with him. She is still alive. In 1880 Bake was living in the County of Victoria, near Minden. There he paid his addresses to a farmer's daughter

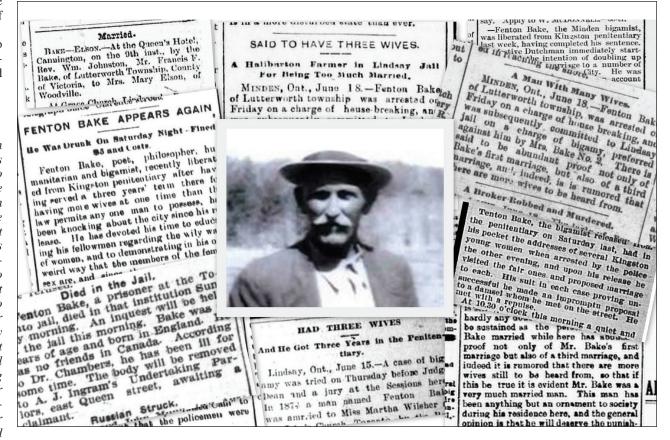
named Annie Asling, then 18 years of age. He represented himself as a widower. Miss Asling accepted him, and the pair were married at Fenelon Falls by the Rev. Wm. Logan, a clergyman of the Church of England. Like the former marriage, this was not a happy one. After five months the couple separated, and have not since lived together. A son was subsequently born as the result of their brief married life. Bake has the alcohol habit, and is said to have got some money recently from England, which he squandered in dissipation. The jury found him guilty.

In the afternoon he was again placed in the dock on a charge of breaking into the house of Mrs. Jane Asling, the widowed mother of Anne. Bake's little boy, Willie, lived with his grandmother at her house near Minden, but Miss Anne Asling has been working in Toronto, and visiting her mother and son each summer. She has only spoken to her bigamist husband once or twice since their separation. The boy, Willie, has been a sort of tie between his father and grandmother, so that Bake has stayed occasionally at the Asling homestead.

On the 29th of May he came there in the middle of the night, in a pugnacious mood, having drunk a pint of whiskey at intervals between 6 o'clock and midnight. He smashed two doors with a gun, which he broke in the operation. Then he broke some furniture, swore he would end the days of the old witch and stormed around furiously, frightening all the inmates out of the house.

At the trial today he gave evidence in his behalf, denying the intent of assault, which the indictment charged. In cross-examination by Crown Attorney Devlin, he admitted that he had been married a third time, or, as he put it, "That he had jumped the broomstick with an old woman when he was drunk." He protested strongly that he loved Anne Asling and her son Willie, and said he thought he was justified in marrying Anne, because he had received a letter from the sister of his wife, Martha, saying that Martha was dead. He complained bitterly of the conduct of Martha, whose character he painted in colours so black as to be almost grotesque. He is a glib and voluble talker. His third marriage, he said, took place in Cannington about six years ago. He did not know where the woman was now. He thought her name was Mary Ellson, or something like that. He said he had to leave her because she started firing teacups at him. The jury acquitted the prisoner of intent to assault. His Honour sentenced Bake to three years in the penitentiary for the bigamy. Mr. Barron defended the prisoner on both charges.

As he had with women, Fenton Bake charmed the press



upon his release from prison.

The Globe in Toronto reported "Fenton Bake, bigamist, of Minden, Haliburton County, was released from the penitentiary on Saturday, after having served two years in that institution on conviction of bigamy. He is still in the city, and has 'money to burn,' he stated, having '\$2,000 in the bank and \$10 to spend.' Bake was again arrested this afternoon for intoxication."

And two days later, "Fenton Bake, the bigamist released from the penitentiary on Saturday last, had in his pocket the addresses of several Kingston young women when arrested by the police the other evening, and upon his release he visited the fair ones and proposed marriage to each. His suit in each case proving unsuccessful he made an impromptu proposal to a damsel whom he met on the street. He met with a repulse."

Three months later, The Daily Whig reported that "Fenton Bake, poet, philosopher, humanitarian and bigamist, recently liberated from Kingston penitentiary after having served a three years' term there for having more wives at one time than the law permits any one man to possess, has been knocking about the city since his release. He has devoted his time to educating his fellowmen regarding the wily ways of women, and to demonstrating in his own weird way that the members of the female sex are, and since the early days of Eve have been, utterly untrustworthy and designing, constantly lying in wait to entrap guileless and unsophisticated man"

One suspects that it was not the women who were lying in wait to entrap, as Fenton Bake was not finished his marrying ways.

Two years later he was back in Haliburton County, where he wooed pioneer Catherine Melville, widow of Stanhope's first reeve James Melville. She was older than him by almost 20 years. They married in the summer of 1899 and less than two years later, she sold all her land to Benjamin and Florence Sawyer. Luckily Ben did not pay the \$800 in cash, as one wonders how quickly it would have been spent by Fenton. By 1911, we see Catherine on the census as the widow Melville again, boarding with Margaret Smyth, and living off her mortgage income. She died in 1917.

Martha, his first wife, returned to England in the 1870s with her young daughter, there relinquishing her daughter's upbringing to her parents. She worked as a private nurse, called herself widow Martha Bake, and surprisingly, returned to Toronto in the summer of 1911, hopefully not to reconnect with Fenton, who was by this time also living in Toronto. She died in Toronto in 1916.

Second wife Annie Asling married in Niagara Falls in 1898 and moved with her husband to Ohio, dying there at the ripe old age of 86 in 1948. Her son William Percival Bake, raised by his grandmother Jane Asling, remained in Haliburton County, marrying Edna Walton and having two children.

His third wife Mary Elson was certainly not an old woman when, according to a newspaper clipping in *The Woodville Advocate*, he married her at the Queen's Hotel in Cannington in February 1887. She was a 37-year-old widow with three children, and probably realized rather quickly the mistake she had made, as the marriage was never registered. This may explain the teacup throwing. The clipping is the only record of the event, and she is shown as widow Mary Elson four years later on the 1891 census. She never remarried.

Fenton Bake's story ends in Toronto in 1915.

The Toronto World reported on May 17 "Fenton Bake, a prisoner at the Toronto jail, died in that institution Sunday morning. An inquest will be held at the jail this morning. Bake was 67 years of age and born in England. He has no friends in Canada. According to Dr. Chambers, he has been ill for some time. The body will be removed to A.J. Ingram's Undertaking Parlors, east Queen Street, awaiting a claimant."

SUDOKU SOLUTION

6	8	4	2	5	1	9	7	3
5	3	2	7	9	6	1	4	8
1	7	9	8	3	4	6	5	2
8	9	1	5	4	3	2	6	7
3	2	5	6	1	7	4	8	9
4	6	7	9	2	8	3	1	5
9	5	6	1	7	2	8	3	4
2	1	3	4	8	5	7	9	6
7	4	8	3	6	9	5	2	1

AROUND THE COUNTY TOWN



Local Landmark of the Month

The Lincoln town car in Snowdon Park. This 1972 Lincoln town car sits mysteriously in the woods in Snowdon Park, surrounded by the remnants of a farm homestead. A fairly level 2.5 km hike takes you through a variety of habitats out to the car, which sits partway around the Ross Rigney loop. With a total of about 6.5 kilometres of some of the least hilly trails in the Haliburton Highlands, Snowdon Park is a great year-round hiking destination. The overlooks can offer beautiful sunsets this time of year. This is part of a Local Landmark series brought to you by the Haliburton Highlands tourism team. Online, we feature a different historic or cultural landmark found in the Haliburton Highlands. Follow Haliburton Highlands on Instagram or Facebook to see the weekly features from throughout the county.

Backyard building

Dave Wilfong and Kim Switzer created an igloo in Switzer's backyard in Algonquin Highlands this week, after she learned the skills to do so last year. While there wasn't enough snow in one place to make it happen, Switzer said she was eager to build it so they shovelled the yard after the weekend's snowfall. /Photo by Kayla Switzer





Natural joy

Marci Mandel took a break from the ice with granddaughter Lottie to share a smile with a snowman created by the family last weekend in Minden. /Photo submitted by Marci Mandel

To see your loved ones on this page, send photos to sue@ haliburtonpress.com



Sign of the times

The Mill Pond Restaurant in Carnarvon responded to a Jan. 6 sign war challenge by Truss Foodworks in Haliburton Forest which noted "we need some excitement in our lives during these times, so who wants a piece of us?" The Mill Pond's Facebook post reads "Challenge accepted Truss Foodworks ... giving us something to do and get the community involved." Sign wars, in which businesses call each other out with witty visual displays, have been popular in communities looking to find fun during pandemic restrictions./Photo by The Mill Pond Restaurant

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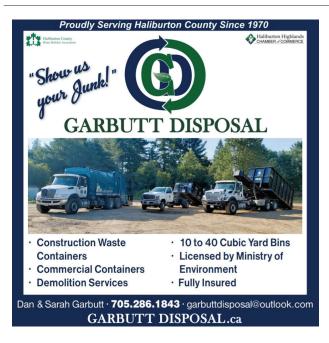
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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Township of Algonquin Highlands requires a Trail Technician/By-Law Officer

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from qualified persons for the position of Trail Technician/By-Law Officer. Reporting to the Trails Coordinator, the Trail Technician/By-Law Officer assists the Trails Division with the operation and maintenance of the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails (Frost Centre and Poker Lakes canoe route areas), hiking trails and the Frost Centre ski trails.

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the full job description.

Please submit your resume and cover letter by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 31, 2022 to:

> Dawn Mugford-Guay Human Resources Coordinator Township of Algonquin Highlands 1123 North Shore Road Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1

Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca



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Virtual AGM **Annual General Meeting** Tuesday January 18, 2022

Meeting begins at 7 pm on Zoom All are welcome to attend.

Please pre-register using this link: https://www.eventbrite.ca/ e/annual-general-meetingtickets-233993529947

560 ANNOUNCEMENTS



Highlands Summer Festival AUDITION CALL

Auditions for this summer's productions of:

The Sound of Music The Importance of Being Earnest Every Brilliant Thing

And interviews for Early Stages Youth (10-14) Theatre Program will be held Saturday & Sunday February 4 & 5, at Haliburton United Church.

> Audition packages are available at www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca

Be sure to review the package before booking your audition time by calling Betty Mills at 705-457-1354 or emailing: bettydavid.mills@gmail.com

SCOT DENTON: Artistic Producer **MELISSA STEPHENS:** Executive Producer

Classifieds Minden Times

Call 705-286-1288 classifieds@haliburtonpress.com Deadline 4 pm Monday

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Full-Time, Part-Time (Permanent and/or Temporary) and Casual staff for the noted classifications below.

RN's and RPN's are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The Registered Nurse earns \$33.90 /hr - \$48.53/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice and one year or more of previous emergency department or specialty department experience is preferred. Temporary accommodation will be provided.

Registered Practical Nurses earn \$30.58 - \$31.75/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

Personnel Support Workers earns \$22.25 - \$24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:

The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

Interested: Submit your application and resume to:

Human Resources Haliburton Highlands Health Services Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca Fax: 705-457-4609



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- A valid driver's licence

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Interviews will be held during the week of January 17, 2022. Please send a detailed resume to: mindenfoodbankpthornett@gmail.com or mail to: Minden Community Food Centre P.O. Box 893, Minden, Ont. KOM 2KO



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Dr.(Mrs) Snehlata Chakraburtty

(May 2, 1938) passed away peacefully at her home in Minden on January 9, 2022.

She left behind her husband Joti and their daughters Meena and Bina and their families. She will be dearly missed by all, especially by her four grandchildren, Bharat, Arjun, Saakshi and Divya.

For more information about her life and funeral details please visit https://pinecrest-remembrance.com or www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



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640 IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of

Kevin Isaacson

Jan 9, 1962 - Jan. 29, 2013

Carole Murphy

Jan. 8, 1958 - Oct. 16, 2016

Things I feel most deeply, are the hardest things to say,
I love you both
in a very special way.

If I could have one lifetime wish, one dream that could come true, I'd pray to God with all my heart, for yesterday and you.

Love Mom & Family

Forever in our hearts!





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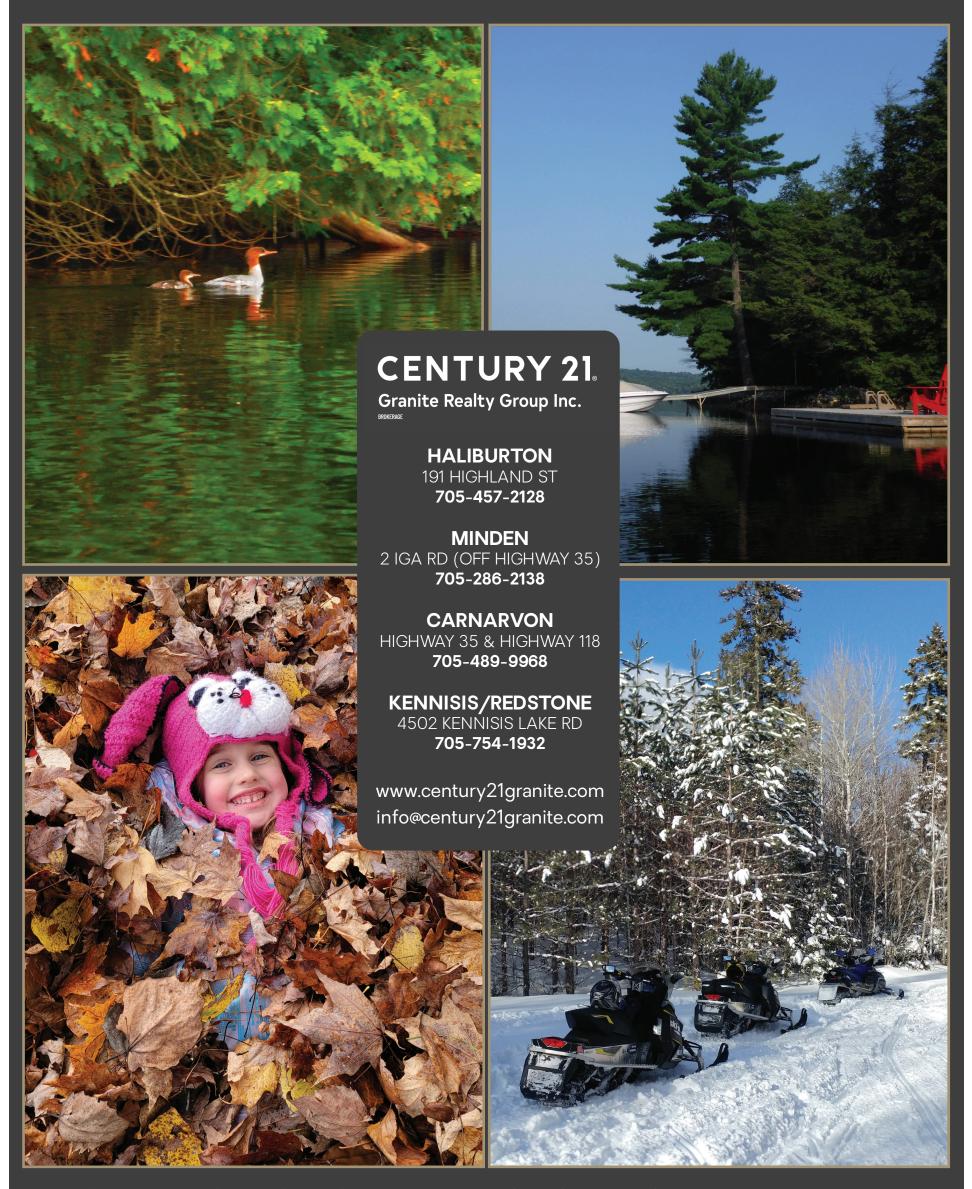
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